

There is nothing more important than the jobs that we do as elected officials, the jobs we do as volunteers, the jobs we do as mom and dad, brother and sister, aunt and uncle than to make the difference in the life of a child. And that is what the Affordable Care Act does. It makes the difference in the life of a child.

It makes the difference in the life of a child for that grandparent to be able to go in and be able to afford to have their prescription drugs filled so that they are able to be there as mentors and as life support for these young children as they grow up.

For their parents to have peace of mind at night. To know because of an illness that they had or a hereditary condition that they had, that they don't have to worry about losing their home. They don't have to worry about looking at their child and saying "we can't afford summer camp. We can't do hockey this year. We have to move." That's huge peace of mind for families. It keeps families and communities strong. And for these children that are standing here with us, "repeal and replace," when I hear that I become outraged. These children are irreplaceable in our community and our family and we need to make sure that they have the health care that they need in order to grow up healthy and strong.

At times in my life I didn't have health insurance. And I had a child who graduated from college that didn't have a job right away that had health insurance. And quite frankly, I looked at the child, I won't mention the gender, I have two so I'll protect their identity a little bit. I looked at this bright adult who had just graduated looking for a job. You better hope if you have an accident, although I don't want you to have one and it has to be very, very minor, is when you're in a car because we require car insurance. We require that our children and us as individuals we're protected when we're in a car. And when I hear people talk about how we can't talk about a mandate.

No one chooses whether or not they get sick. No one here chose whether or not they would have a hereditary condition. It's about personal responsibility to do what you can to afford to cover yourself. And it's about us coming together to pull together. That's what insurance is about, that's what fire departments are about, that's what America is about. To be together to make for a strong family, a strong community and a strong nation.

So I am very proud of my vote for this and I am very proud to represent people and families who

think it's important to be together for one another and also to assume responsibility when you can.

Thank you.